

REMARKS

In light of the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17-18, 20-21, 24-25, 28-30, 34, 36-38, 40-42, 46,, and 51-54 are pending in this application. Claims 8 and 16 are canceled.

Claim 29 was objected to for depending upon canceled claim 27. Claim 29 has been amended to depend from claim 28. Accordingly, this objection is moot.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 2, 8, 10, 16, 18, 20-21, 24, 28, 30, 36, 38, and 41-42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 1, 9, 17, 25, 40 and 51 (all of the independent claims) have been amended to include the limitations of allowable dependent claims 8 and 16. Accordingly, Applicants believe all remaining claims (Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, 15, 17-18, 20-21, 24-25, 28-30, 34, 36-38, 40-42, 46,, and 51-54) are now in condition for allowance.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

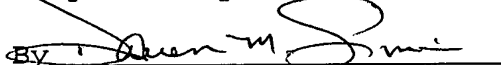
Application No.: 10/069,538

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-794

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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